

REMARKS

Upon entry of the instant amendment, Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to more particularly point out Applicants' invention. The drawings have been amended to provide captions. No new matter has been added.

The drawings were objected to because "proper legends are missing." FIG. 1 and FIG. 3A have been amended to provide legends. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kennedy, U.S. Patent No. 6,330,589 ("Kennedy"). In order for there to be anticipation, each and every element of the claimed invention must be present in a single prior reference. Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is not taught, suggested, or implied by Kennedy. As described in the Specification and in response to previous Official Action, one aspect of the present invention relates to handling of threaded messages. As used in the context of embodiments of the present invention, messages may be "threaded" when forwarded with attached materials, i.e., when a portion of a previous message is included within a succeeding message. For example, a voice message or e-mail message may be forwarded (or replied-to) with additional comments.

Furthermore, to prevent redundant playback or display of threaded-in messages, embodiments of the present invention allow accessing of messages that form part of the thread when a message containing the thread is accessed. Thus, claim 1 recites "a controller for identifying which of said one or more messages are threaded within said others and accessing said some threaded within messages when said others are accessed;" and claim 9 recites "accessing said one or more first messages responsive to accessing said one or more second messages." Embodiments of the present invention further allow for display indicating that components, i.e., messages threaded within others, have been read when only a parent has been read. Thus, claims 1 and 9 recite "indicating in a display separate from a message that said at least a portion of another message threaded in said

message has been read when said message has been read.”

In contrast, Applicants respectfully submit that Kennedy does not relate to accessing a message contained in another message, or indicating accessing, as generally recited in the claims at issue. For example, if a message A contains messages B and C, then accessing A will access B and C. In contrast, while Kennedy provides a message tree, *accessing one message in the tree does not appear to have any effect on accessing a related branch message*. As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections of the claims.

Claims 2 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Kennedy. Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention that is not taught, suggested or implied by the cited art, either singly or in combination.

These claims recite “said identifying including indicating that a message threaded within another message has been accessed when only said another message in which said message has been threaded has been accessed.” Thus, to use the example of message A containing B and C, when message A is accessed, the system will indicate that B and C have likewise been accessed, since they are threaded within message A. In contrast, as noted above, Kennedy does not appear to address handling of messages threaded within other messages. Further, in Kennedy, even if a “root” is accessed, the “branches” do not appear to be either accessed themselves or indicated to be accessed, as generally recited in the claims at issue. Applicant notes that the Official Action makes use of “Official Notice” to provide teaching for indicating “that a message threaded within another message has been accessed when only said another message in which said message has been threaded has been accessed. “ Nowhere, however, does Kennedy provide such a teaching; further, Applicant respectfully disagrees that the claimed feature “said identifying including indicating that a message threaded within another message has been accessed when only said another message in which said message has been threaded has been accessed” is so ubiquitous as to justify Official Notice. Indeed, even assuming that displaying in a Reply message the Replied-to message in any way is analogous to the indicating as recited in the

claims at issue, nowhere does Kennedy or any art cited in the Official Action provide for indicating, for example, that the Replied-to message has been read if the Reply message is read. As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims.

Claims 3-7, 11-15, and 17-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Kennedy in view of Hicks, U.S. Patent No. 6,304,573 B1 ("Hicks"). Applicants respectfully submit that there are elements of the claimed invention that are not taught, suggested or implied by Kennedy or Hicks, either singly or in combination. Kennedy has been discussed above. Hicks relates merely to storing voice messages. Thus, like Kennedy, Hicks also fails to teach, suggest or imply threading or identifying threading or accessing threaded messages as generally recited in the claims at issue. As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections of the claims.

Claims 8 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kennedy in view of Lytle, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,549,950 ("Lytle"). Applicants respectfully submit that there are elements of the claimed invention that are not taught, suggested or implied by Kennedy or Lytle, either singly or in combination. Lytle is relied on for allegedly teaching an e-mail reply to an original e-mail message. Assuming this is true, Lytle, appears to be representative of the problem solved by the present invention and, like Kennedy does not appear to relate to handling or identifying threaded messages as generally recited in the claims. As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections of the claims.

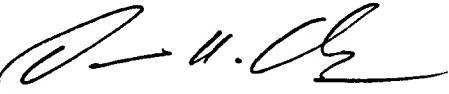
Serial No.: 09/246,409

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For all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully requested,

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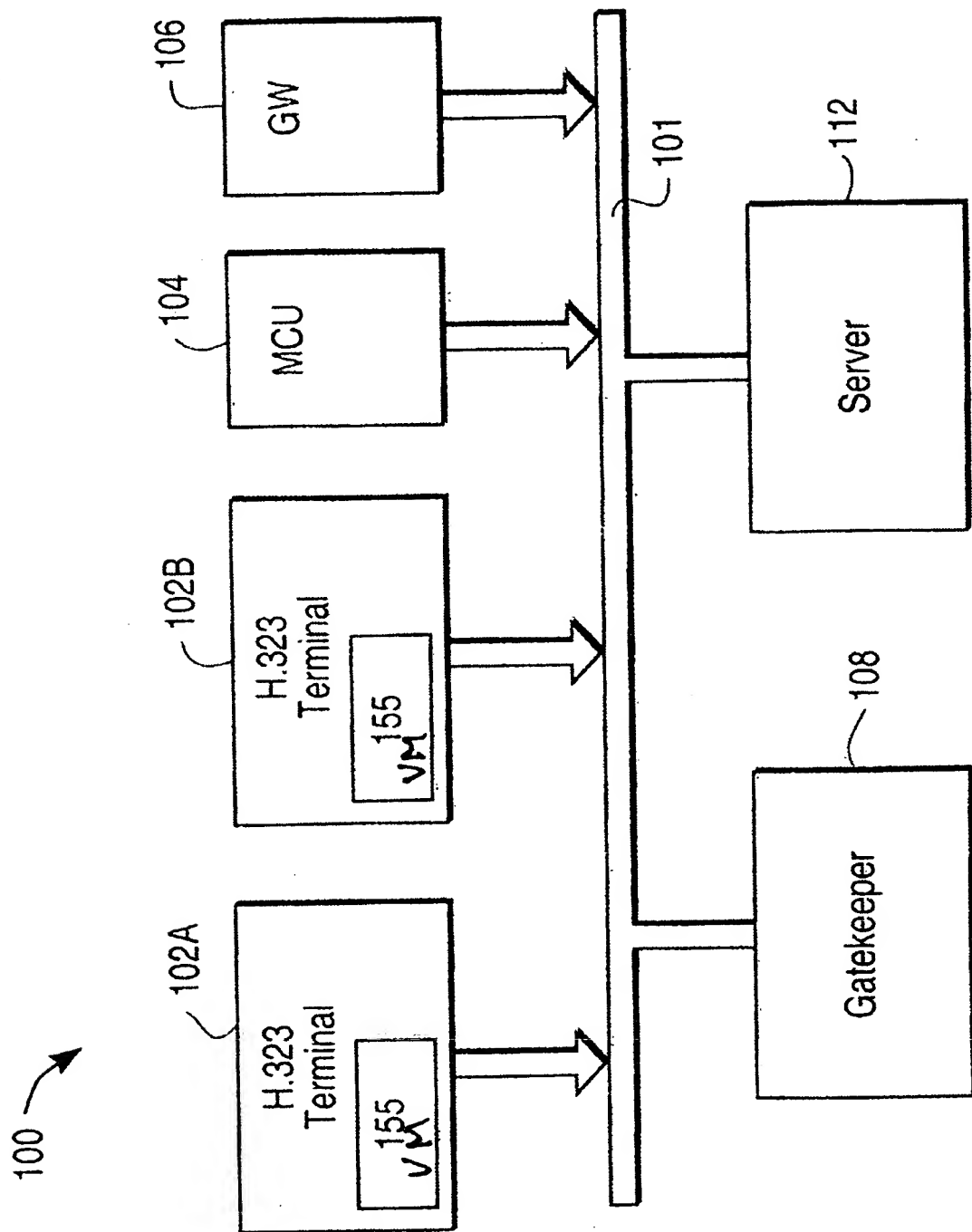


FIG. 1

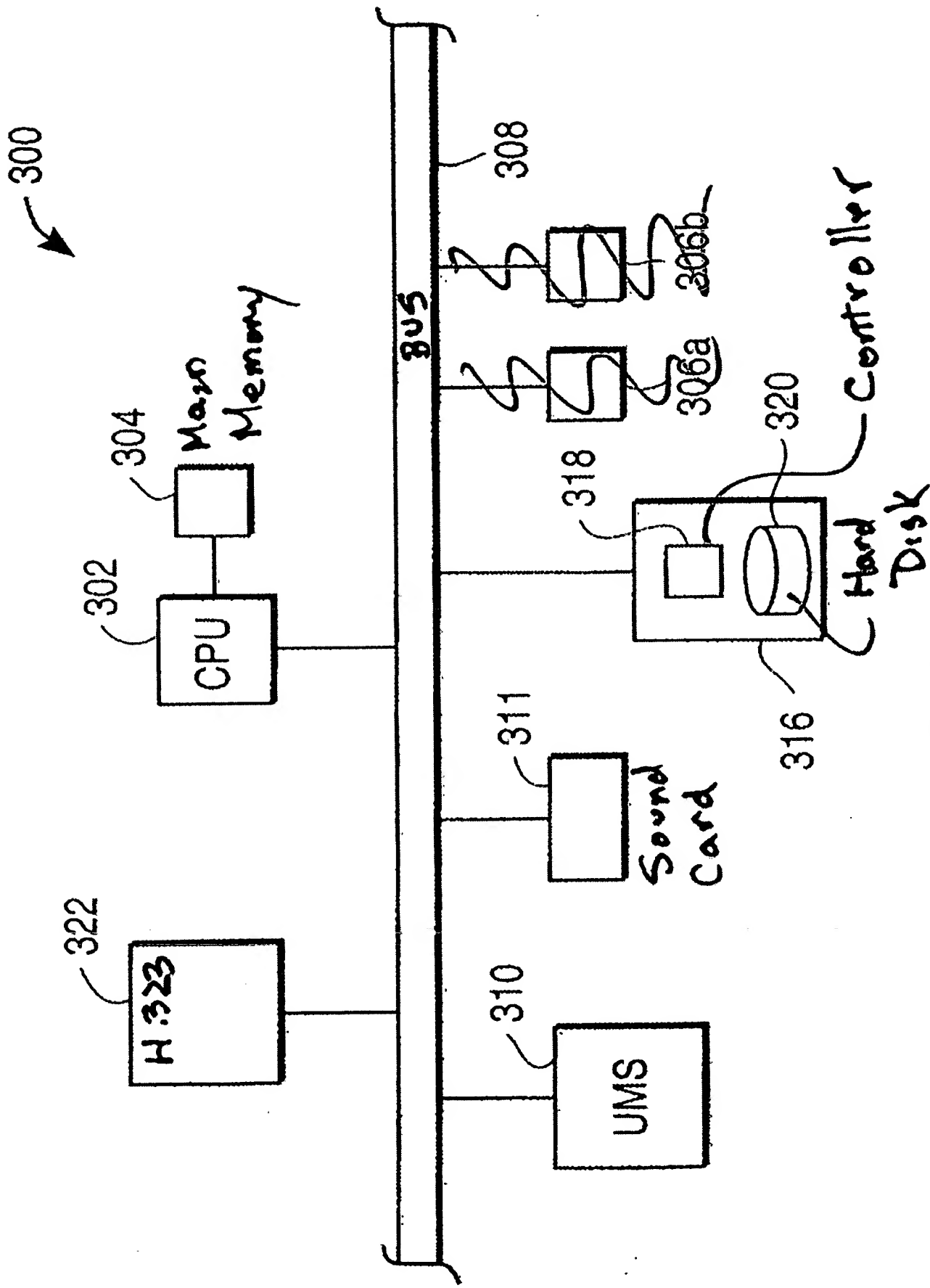


FIG. 3A